

Submission
No 85

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR
TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 8 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Regarding Western Harbour and Beaches Link

I write you to express my very deep concerns regarding the lasting environmental impacts of this project upon the area that my seven members of my family and I reside within. I request that far greater consideration be given to the lasting environmental consequences of this proposal.

As a resident of Allambie, I spend time almost daily in the Manly Dam Reserve area, a place I savour for its pristine waters, tranquility and wildlife.

My family and I and other residents are deeply concerned by the proposal to place additional lanes through the Wakehurst Parkway. This shall permanently shatter the tranquility of this area. The proposed roadway will be higher than the trees and visible throughout Manly Dam Reserve and in a lot of Garigal National Park. The raised road and increased traffic will have lasting sound impacts upon residents and visitors and light from the road will be visible for miles around.

I am very concerned that it is proposed that a 26m ventilation outlet will be placed along Wakehurst Parkway, producing emissions so great that it will even "Have the potential to affect prescribed airspace". This unfiltered stack would be situated on a ridgetop above a natural basin into which a range of airborne toxins will settle.

The EIS for both the Western Harbour and Beaches Link tunnels put future pollution levels at more than double the maximum PM2.5 limits across the route. According to the W.H.O. any amount of PM2.5 does harm.

Toxic air quality would also be released into the very area that people retreat for bush walks, biking and leisure activity. We must retain these rare areas that are "green lungs".

The rocky features along Wakehurst Parkway will be blown up and jack hammered. These rocky areas have been formally identified as being habitat for threatened species such as the Rosenberg Goanna and the Large-eared Pied Bat.

The proposed road is far too wide to have adequate runoff water treatment. This shall tragically result in untreated water runoff that will pollute the creeks that lead to the currently pristine waters of Manly Dam.

The upper creeks and Dam are home to an ancient rock-climbing fish found nowhere else in the Sydney basin. It is believed to have existed here for 60 million years.

Manly Dam and the vast bush lands surrounding Wakehurst Parkway are also habitat for many rare and endangered creatures such as the threatened eastern bent-wing bat; the threatened eastern pygmy possum and grey-headed fruit bat. There are also records the nearly threatened spotted-tailed quolls and of koalas (now listed as vulnerable of extinction) also being sighted within the reserve.

The EIS states that "There is the potential for impacts on aquatic biodiversity due to reduced water quality during operation due to the presence of sensitive receiving environments". This shall potentially have devastating impacts upon to the Galaxias climbing fish that have survived in this fresh water, and Red-crowned toadlet that also needs fresh, clean water to survive.

At present Manly Dam is a safe place to swim and to fish - which won't continue if this proposal goes ahead as currently planned. Presently the Dam dam is home to many fish, such as Australian bass, silver perch, carp and redfin.

Construction of the Beaches link project would involve the loss of 20.92 hectares of threatened species habitat, including the removal of nearly 1.5 hectares of Duffys Forest Endangered Ecological Community-some of the rarest vegetation on the planet.

Also deeply concerning is his construction will destroy a large area of bushland at the top of Wakehurst Golf Course. This area was declared by Sydney Water to be rich in endangered plant and animal species and worthy of conservation.

Toxic chemicals emitted from vehicles travelling along this proposed tunnel will be discharged from a 20m chimney on Balgowlah Golf Course, one 26m one on Wakehurst parkway and one on the other side of Middle Harbour.

These chimneys are dangerously close to a number of schools and shall result in compromised air quality that risks both the short and long term health of our children.

I sincerely request that you prioritise averting ecological and environmental impacts and to place greater value upon retaining the health and well-being of residents and the many rare species that live in this area who's survival shall certainly be threatened by this proposal.

Plans for this project were forged in a pre-COVID era, where daily commutes to distant office spaces were the norm for many workers.

Since COVID, working from home has become the new normal - and indeed it is proven that at least 12% of people now work from home, versus 4% prior to the pandemic. We Northern Beaches residents don't need or want "a beaches link"

Yours sincerely,